

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6958

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJ: CFDT AFFILIATION WITH ETUC

1. RENE SALANNE OF CFDT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TOLD LABATT 18 FEBRUARY THAT CFDT NATIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY DECISION CALLING FOR CFDT AFFILIATION WITH ETUC. APPLICATION, HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN SUBMITTED YET BECAUSE OF CFDT EFFORTS TO MAKE SURE THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, WCL AFFILIATES SUBMIT THEIR INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION FOR ETUC AFFILIATION. HE ADDED THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME WCL AFFILIATES WHICH ARE RESISTING

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THE CONDITION IMPOSED UPON THEM BY ETUC, NAMELY OF APPLYING

INDIVIDUALLY FOR AFFILIATION AND NOT AS A GROUP. SALANNE INDICATED THAT HE HAD NO SYMPATHY FOR THIS SORT OF ATTITUDE AND THE CFDT HAD BEEN ARGUING AGAINST IT.

2. SALANNE FELT CONFIDENT THAT ALL WCL APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED BEFORE 7 MARCH IN TIME TO BE ACTED UPON BY ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO MEET ON THAT DATE.

3. IF WCL AFFILIATES ARE ADMITTED INTO ETUC, 7 MARCH DATE WILL BE TRULY HISTORICAL DAY AND A GREAT DEAL MORE IMPORTANT THAN 19 JANUARY (GENEVA CONFERENCE) WHICH COMMUNISTS HERALDED AS TURNING POINT IN EUROPEAN LABOR HISTORY.

4. SALANNE ANTICIPATED THAT EVENTUALLY (CGIL (ITALY) WILL BE ADMITTED INTO ETUC, BUT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE SAME THING HAPPENS WITH CGT (FRANCE). IN HIS OPINION, CGT IS NOT READY TO APPLY FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP AND THAT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN SUCH MEMBERSHIP ARE DESIGNED TO SERVE CGT EFFORT TO PROJECT IMAGE OF COMMITMENT TO SOLIDARITY AND UNITY.

5. COMMENT: FOREGOING AND RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER CFDT LEADERS SUPPORT OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT CFDT IS NOT ONLY EAGER TO JOIN ETUC BUT ALSO DETERMINED TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN IT. WHILE ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL LABOR FIELD THROUGH THEIR WCL AFFILIATION, CFDT LEADERS RECOGNIZE THAT ENTRY INTO ETUC REPRESENTS PROMOTION INTO REAL "BIG LEAGUE" INTERNATIONAL LABOR BALL GAME. CFDT WILL BRING TO ETUC NEW IDEAS, DYNAMISM AND SOPHISTICATION IN DEALING WITH WFTU AND ITS EE AFFILIATES. THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER CFDT LEADERS WILL BE REALISTIC ENOUGH TO RESERVE THEIR IDEOLOGICAL RHETORIC FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION RATHER THAN TRYING TO EXPORT IT TO ETUC COUNCILS.
IRWIN

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